

I am very disappointed that the FCC in this docket has given hardly any consideration to shortwave listeners or mention of them. Many millions of radios capable of receiving shortwave broadcasts have been sold in the US, and many people use them to hear the world.

The HomePlug Alliance wishes to use shortwave frequencies over unshielded wire to transmit internet traffic within households, and between households and a node which connects to the internet via a cable, wire, or optical fibre. This is often called "Broadband Power Line" (BPL)

This has been measured to cause significant noise levels which would interfere with shortwave reception.

Ref: http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/HomePlug_arrl_Dec_2000.pdf

The interference is not limited to the household involved, but will radiate from all the wires connected to the local pole transformer, which may encompass 1 to 20 households.

Radio Amateurs have been successful in convincing HomePlug to reduce the level by 30db for Radio Amateur bands. No such accommodation has been made for shortwave listeners. It would be difficult to accommodate shortwave listeners since the stations they listen to are spread across the 2-30 Mhz spectrum, though there are bands they gather in.

There are thousands of shortwave stations broadcasting in hundreds of languages, with a great variety of programming. Many of these stations are weakly received. Interference would prevent their reception.

The interference would be worse for casual shortwave listeners using portable or tabletop radios with internal or whip antennae listening to stations many thousands of miles away. Most radio amateurs have directional external antennae, which reduce the interference and increase particular distant signals.

Measurements published in

http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/files/HomePlug_arrl_Dec_2000.pdf indicated many dB of interference in non-ham bands.

Listening to shortwave broadcasts is an enjoyable and mind-enlarging activity. Interfering with it, jamming it, like the Russians did before perestroika, is effective censorship which the US Government should not countenance.

I remember as a child listening to shortwave programs from the far-off corners of the world, from China, Japan, Russia, India, the Arabian Gulf, Ecuador. The music was strange and enchanting. It was a magic moment in the evening, and late at night. The accents were strange. The news was of far-off places.

There might be a case for BPL in industrial situations where there are no shortwave receivers, but they do not belong in or near houses.

There are many already-developed wired and wireless alternatives available. Current wifi solutions technology is well developed and cheap. It can transmit over city blocks, and even over many miles.

Beamed 802.11b broadband connections have been observed over distances of up to

310 kilometres using just 6 watts.

Ref: <http://www.newswireless.net/articles/030307-record.html>

Using stock equipment in Nevada, connections were completed up to 14 miles, and

using an antenna built only with materials from the grocery store and Home Depot, a broadband connection was made at 35 miles.

Ref: <http://home.earthlink.net/~wifi-shootout/>

I strongly urge the FCC to reject this use of the shortwave spectrum for broadband or any unlicensed widespread transmission that will affect households. There are better alternatives that are already developed and very cheap which do not stop citizens from listening to the world.

Please don't jam shortwave broadcasts.

---- Quidquid latine dictum sit altum viditur ----

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I would rather be exposed to the inconveniences attending too much liberty than to those attending too small a degree of it.

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